

# **The issue of victims of sexual offences and their protection through criminal law**

## **Abstract**

The theme of this diploma thesis refers to the issue of victims of sexual offences and their protection through criminal law. This thesis aims to theoretically analyse this issue, describe the specifics of the victimisation process, and focus on protecting victims of sexual offences through criminal law. The author also asks in the introduction why these victims are victimised by so many. It also evaluates the legislation in selected areas and suggests possible changes in the legislation. The thesis itself is divided into six chapters, each of which deals with different aspects of this theme.

The first chapter deals with the current legislation on selected crimes of rape, sexual abuse and sexual coercion. The author also discusses the degree of their latency, which is relatively high in crimes against human dignity in the sexual field.

The second chapter defines the various concepts related to the issue of victims of sexual offences. These are terms such as victim, particularly vulnerable victim or false victim. Furthermore, the so-called victimity and victimogenic situation and factors are defined here. The conclusion of this chapter is devoted to the description of the relationship between the perpetrator of a sexual offence and the victim.

Victimisation and its individual phases are explained in the third chapter. In more detail, the author focuses on secondary victimisation by the police, the court, forensic experts, the media and loved ones. The concept of revictimisation is also briefly introduced here.

The fourth chapter deals with the psychological impact of the sexual offence on the victim, i.e. primary and secondary trauma, as well as the experience of harm. This chapter also deals with the long-term consequences of sexual offences, which are post-traumatic stress disorder, sexually abused child syndrome and the so-called "rape trauma" or raped woman syndrome.

The fifth chapter focuses on the protection of victims of sexual offences by means of criminal law. Attention is paid here to the individual rights that the current legislation provides for victims, with the structure of this chapter replicating that of the Victims of Crime Act. For individual rights, *de lege ferenda* considerations are also outlined, i.e. in which direction, according to the author, the legislation should take.

The last chapter is devoted to the individual myths that form around these victims. The author finds it necessary to draw attention to a wide range of ideas and myths and thus prevent unnecessary victimisation and stigmatisation of these victims.

The conclusion of the thesis assesses the achievement of the objectives set in its introduction and summarises this issue also.

**Keywords:**

Victim of sexual offence, Victimisation, Protection of victims through criminal law